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on the Oder River

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1. The German-Polish Commission, which had been set up under the Oder River Shipping agreement of 6 February 1952, began negotiations concerning the shipping on the Oder River in Frankfurt/Oder, on 20 January 1953, and subsequently conferred at the headquarters of the Generaldirektion Schifffahrt (Directorate General, Shipping) in Berlin.¹ Subjects of the discussions were the expansion of the Oder River and the Lausitzer Neisse River, the introduction of night navigation, hydraulic subjects, waterway legislation, border control and cooperation in fighting floods and ice danger on the Oder River and the Lausitzer Neisse River.²
2. Present at the conferences were Kaiser (fnu), director general of the Polish waterway administration, who conducted the negotiations for the Poles; a major of the Polish Militia, and a major of the Polish Security Service; and experts who were consulted by the Germans and Poles on special subjects.
3. The German-Polish Agreement on Shipping on the Oder River, dated 6 February 1952, required the Germans to dredge the Oder River between Ratzdorf and Kuestrin in 1952 and to increase the water depth in the fairway by one foot. Poland was to deepen the Oder River section downstream from Kuestrin. Although the Germans had carried out dredging operations to the value of 320,000 eastmarks in 1952, the Poles had done no work whatever. Since, however, the dredging operations proved of no avail, as it was impossible to attain the scheduled water depth by dredging operations without a simultaneous improving of the river embankments, the Germans at the meeting on 20 January 1953 proposed to have the scouring power of the stream increased by the construction of large groynes and the partial narrowing of the river course, thus lowering the level of the river bottom.

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1. Comment. A report on the German-Polish Agreement of 6 February 1952 was previously submitted. See [redacted]

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2. Comment. According to the Directorate General, the German-Polish negotiations which had been set for 15 November 1952, were subsequently adjourned sine die. See [redacted]

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